

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

14215 RIVER ROAD

P.O. BOX 530

WALNUT GROVE, CA 95690

Phone (916) 776-2290

FAX (916) 776-2293

E-Mail: dpc@citlink.net Home Page: www.delta.ca.gov



March 23, 2000

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Report on Staff Activities Since the January Meeting

Material in the Mailing Packet:

- Pending Projects Memo (*for Commission Information Only*)
- Update on North Delta National Wildlife Refuge: A comment letter on the environmental assessment has been submitted; the comment period closed today. The Service will consider all the submitted comments and will decide if further environmental review is needed to set the boundary of a new refuge; if not, a boundary will be determined. Fish and Wildlife Staff has talked to others and me about a smaller, hybrid refuge of about 30,000 acres. This new alternative drops Lower Egbert; drops Moore Tract; drops the center of the Bypass where the Duck Clubs are located; and retains the three southern islands; areas outside the Bypass along Putah Creek and two large properties which are for sale: Glide Ranch in the north, and the McCormack Ranch just north of Liberty Island.
- Update on Pending Legislation (*For Commission Information Only*)
- Update on Category III Ecosystem Grants (*For Commission Information Only*)

Upcoming Events:

- CALFED Bay-Delta Program Science Conference 2000: Sacramento Convention Center, October 3-5, 2000
- CALFED Category III Grant Applications due May 15, 2000 (An application will be submitted for construction of the Delta In-Channel Island pilot project; Construction--the project was sent to a special committee for further scientific review last year and has passed that review; one of the islands will be constructed under the Delta Levees Program). Other projects anticipated in the Delta include habitat enhancement of Rhode Island, by Department of Fish and Game, and habitat enhancement at Franks Tract by Department of Parks and Recreation and Department of Water Resources.
- Central Valley Mosaic-Two day conference on May 10 and 11 sponsored by the Great Valley Center

Other Items of Interest:

- Environmentally Sound Boating Information Card: Developed through a group of agencies and boating interests. See information for availability of cards.

- New Report from the San Francisco Estuary Institute "The Pulse of the Estuary: Tracking Contamination with the Regional Monitoring Program 1993-1998". A form has been distributed if Commission want to request a copy.
- San Joaquin County Habitat Conservation Plan: Approval has been delayed several months to complete final work including conduct a biological opinion, and readvertise in the Federal Register. Following this, the Plan can be adopted; Fish and Wildlife Service will issue the permit in late June or early July.
- Department of Fish and Game has completed an Enhancement Guidance Document for distribution to reclamation districts and others interested in the Delta levees subventions program. I will circulate a copy and if you would like to receive a copy please write your name and mailing address and I will make sure you receive a copy.
- Staff has been unsuccessful in obtaining support for the proposed amendment to exempt the Commission's Plan from submittal to the Office of Administrative Law. Staff will make a full presentation to the Commission on this matter at the May meeting. I have completed a three-day class on how to prepare regulations for review by OAL.
- State Water Resources Control Board and the Environmental Protection Agency are soliciting proposals for Water Quality Planning and Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants. Application deadlines I June 16, 2000.

Meetings Attended by Staff Since the Last Meeting:

- Delta Dredging and Reuse Strategy Technical Advisory Panel met February 1
- Meeting regarding Bradford Island Clean Up
- Delta Levee and Habitat Advisory Committee
- Delta In-Channel Island Group
- Director's Meetings
- Pre-Meeting regarding the Proposed West Sacramento Sewage Treatment Plant
- Solano County Summit on Agriculture
- Fish and Wildlife Service re Update on Proposed Refuge
- Sacramento Chapter of the Striped Bass Association (Speaker)

CALFED Meetings Attended by Staff Since the Last Meeting:

- CALFED Policy Group February 23
- Weekly meetings of the CALFED Management Team
- CALFED ERP Focus Group
- CALFED North Delta Improvements Group
- CALFED South Delta Bundle
- Delta Ad Hoc Recreation Group
- Public Lands Ownership Technical Work Group